

## **Programme**

TRAINING WORKSHOP “STRENGTHENING THE BASIS FOR EXCHANGE OF DATA AND INFORMATION ON PRIORITY THEMES”

&

EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

2-4 July 2019

Ohrid, North Macedonia

### **Background**

As a part of activities to be delivered within the project “Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin, training “Strengthening the basis for exchange of data and information on priority themes” will be organized 2-4 July 2019 in Ohrid, North Macedonia for the Drin Basin riparians in Western Balkans in cooperation with the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean. The scope and topics of the training were agreed with the riparians of the Drin River Basin in the framework of the Drin Core Group. targets mainly the members of the Expert Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange (EWG-MIE) and key officials/experts. The training part will take place on 2 and 3 July, and EWG-MIE will hold on 4 July a meeting to discuss its work plan as information and monitoring related actions in the draft Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

### **Objectives of the training**

- Refresh and improve the knowledge of the participants about fundamental issues of data and information exchange at the transboundary level
  - Familiarize the participants with the monitoring and assessment cycle and the necessity of periodically revisiting the information needs as a function of water management issues and the objectives set
  - Demonstrate selected tools and considerations that support initiating data and information exchange on priority datasets with the approach decided by the Drin Core Group
  - Provide an update on the relevant international guidance and standards as well as key considerations related to data comparability relevant to the Drin Basin and pertinent pressures
- Provide elements to enrich discussion in the EWG-MIE about further development of data and information exchange.

### **1. Programme**

#### ***2 July***

9.00-10.30

#### ***Introduction***

- Strategic approach to monitoring and assessment of waters in a transboundary context: Guidance from the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes – Annukka Lipponen, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

### Session 1a: Data collection and infrastructure

- Network issues – *Peter Webster, UN Environment GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre and the Environmental Research Institute* (water quality), with a contribution from *Tommaso Abrate, Water WMO* (hydrology)
- Quality assurance and control - *Peter Webster*
- Example: Ensuring data quality and comparability between Finland and Russia – *Seppo Hellsten*

Discussion: Participants' experiences about data quality assurance

10.30-10.50 Coffee break

### Session 1b: Data management and tools

- Data management and tools - *Peter Webster*
- The possibilities of GIS: the datasets developed in the Drin Basin and salient operational examples from elsewhere – *Henning Mejer, Consultant for GWP* (through Skype)
- Managing data: Meteorology, Climate and Hydrology – *Vasko Stojov, Hydrometeorological Service of North Macedonia*

Tour de table about data management related challenges for water management applications in the Drin countries and the views on the development potential of the tools/platforms available and under development

12.30-13.30 Lunch

### Session 2: From the purpose of use to parameters

#### *Priority datasets, part A -: hydrology, meteorology and water levels*

- Situation of hydrological monitoring and data collection in the Drin River Basin (on the basis of the hydrology thematic report) – *Albania/GWP Mediterranean (TBC)*
- Overview of international guidance and standards in hydrology – *Tommaso Abrate, WMO*
- Data exchange between hydrometeorological services – *TBC, Hydro-meteorological Institute of Kosovo*

15.00-15.20 Coffee break

- An operational data exchange example: Sava GeoPortal and Hydrological Information System (HIS) – *Mirza Sarac, secretariat of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) (TBC)*
- Discussion: How to improve the current exchange of hydrological data?

## **3 July**

9.00-10.30

### Session 3: Priority datasets, part B – water quality and pollution

- The main pressures on water quality in the Drin River Basin (based on the Thematic Report on pollution or by a country expert/experts)
  - o Main point sources of pollution (sewerage discharge, enterprises and industries, waste disposal) and main diffuse pollution sources (arable land, forests, livestock, septic tanks, urban areas)
  - o Biological and chemical water quality assessment
- Ecological, chemical and quantity aspects of a good status of waters according to the European Union's Water Framework Directive: avoiding stumbling blocks from the lessons learned –Seppo Hellsten and Peter Webster
- Assessing hydro-morphological changes – What lessons for the Drin Basin? - *Seppo Hellsten* (possibly complemented by a country commentary TBC)

10.30-10.50 Coffee break

- Current water quality assessment approaches in each of the Riparians (brief interventions from the participants)
  - o Discussion on the common aspects and differences
- Guidance on indicators and monitoring of principal pollutants (nutrients, hazardous substances etc. as appropriate) - *Peter Webster*
- Linking pressures to the status of waters - *Peter Webster*

12.30-13.30 Lunch

*Session 4: Towards comparability of data*

- Water statistics: key frameworks, concepts and definitions – *Mirza Agić, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Selected international standards (sampling, measurements and/or indicators) – *Seppo Hellsten*
- Reporting with the monitoring methodologies used by countries (to illustrate how data collected and shared in the Drin Basin, as can be helpful for international reporting obligations)

15.00-15.20 Coffee break

- Example about cross-border harmonization from the riparians?

Discussion (Peter Webster to facilitate):

- Comparing and gradual adjusting of monitoring methodologies: What practical steps?
- Harmonizing historical data (with an introduction from WMO? – TBC)

**5 July**

9.00-12.30

*Meeting of the EWG-MIE*

- 1) Feedback on the training
- 2) General discussion about topics for EWG-MIE to address or advise the DCG about
- 3) Review activities in the draft SAP related to monitoring and information for developing a common understanding, detailing and possible next steps
- 4) Workplan 2019-2020
- 5) Communication: how the EWG-MIE members work with authorities and stakeholders

6) Global workshop on exchange of information and data (4-5 December 2019):  
experience to be shared from the Drin